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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 AEC-11 ARA-16 OMB-01

DRC-01 NIC-01 /178 W
---------- 015329
R 301532Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5783
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USINT CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR
GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE AND MEPC DEL
BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR UR US SY CU
SUBJ: BREZHNEV SPEECH IN HAVANA

1. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY EMBASSY COMMENTS ON SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF BREZHNEV HAVAN SPEECH (AVAILABLE HERE SO FAR ONLY ON ENGLISH TASS).

2. DETENTE. WHILE NOT DIMINISHING COMMITMENT TO DETENTE, BREZHNEV TOOK FAR MORE PESSIMISTIC AND SOBER APPROACH TO IT THAN HERETOFORE. HE WAS MORE BEARISH THAN USUAL IN CSCE, SAYING IT "OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN MOVING NOW TOWARD ITS FINAL STAGE" AND DEPLORING ALLEGED WESTERN ATTEMPTS TO SET CONDITIONS AND INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ASSESSMENT OF MBFR IS HIS MOST NEGATIVE SINCE TALKS BEGAN; HE ACCUSED "SOME NATO COUNTREIS" OF SEEKING AGREEMENT THAT WOULD LEAD TO UNILATERAL REDUCTION OF SOCIALIST COUNTRY DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. HE ASKED WHETHER SUCH ATTITUDES -- FOR WHICH HE DOES NOT ABSOLVE WESTERN GOVERNMETNS -- AMOUNT TO PRESSURE TO SECRUE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES OR EVEN WHETHER THEY ARE EFFORT TO IMPEDE IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE. EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HIS CUBAN AUDIENCE, BREZHNEV'S ASSESSMENT OF WESTERN INTENTIONS AND MOTIVES STRIKES US A UNUSUALLY NEGATIVE FOR HIM.

3. U.S. AT SAME TIME BREZHNEV CLEARLY FELT NEED TO DEFEND US-SOVIET RELATIONS BEFORE HIS CUBAN HOSTS. HE POINTED TO SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF USSR'S AMERICAN POLICY IN VIETNAM AND ME, LEANING HARD ON ARGUEMENT THAT POLICY SERVES INTERESTS OF PEACE. HE ALSO REFRAINED FROM NAMING U.S. IN HIS REFERENCE TO 1961 INTERVENTION IN CUBA AND TO ECONOMIC BLOCKADE.

4. IDEOLOGY. BREZHNEV COULD NOT RESIST GETTING IN HIS LICS ON LDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITH CASTRO. HE ASSERTED THAT COMMUNISTS ARE NOT SUPPORTERS OF EXPORT OF REVOLUTION AND THAT REVOLUTION IS SOLELY A MATTER FOR PEOPLE OF COUNTRY INVOLVED TO DECIDE.
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5. ME. BREZHNEV, IN STANDARD VEIN, STRESSED ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AS MAJOR ELEMENTS OF SETTLEMENT, AND REITERATED SOVIET DETERMINATION TO MAKE ACTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS. HE NOTED THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT "IS A POSTIVE STEP BUT IT REPRESENTS ONLY A PARTIAL MEASURE OF PURELY MILITARY CHARACTER AND AFFECTS SO FAR ONLY ONE OF THE ARAB

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COUNTRIES THAT WERE INVOLVED IN THE HOSTILITIES"
-- WORDS WHICH APPEAR INTENDED AS A NUDGE TO THE SYRIANS
AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO DOWNPLAY IMPORTANCE OF AGREE-
MENT.DUBS

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Draft Date: 30 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, SY, CU, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
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